



POWERING MASSACHUSETTS

August 10, 2005

SENT BY EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Petition of Competitive Energy Services to require local distribution companies to publish certain information about commercial and industrial natural gas customers, D.T.E. 04-84

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

Please accept this letter as a formal withdrawal of our petition. While we continue to believe that our letter of July 14, 2004 in which we requested the D.T.E. to require local distribution companies to publish capacity assignment figures for all of their commercial and industrial customers is the single most important thing the D.T.E. can do to stimulate the development of a retail market for natural gas service, especially to small commercial customers, we can no longer spare the resources to prosecute this case in the face of opposition of local distribution utilities.

Like any small business, we must choose where and how to deploy our scarce resources. When we initiated the request a year ago, we believed that the D.T.E. had a strong interest in encouraging a competitive retail market for natural gas service and extending the reach of that market to small commercial customers. Based on the D.T.E.'s actions in the electricity market, where the publication of customer specific usage information has been required and has served to stimulate competition, we expected that the publication of capacity assignment figures (which we view as much less confidential than actual energy usage) would engender no significant opposition.

Clearly, we were wrong. The local distribution utilities have opposed us, despite our willingness to accede to virtually all of their concerns, and the D.T.E. has posed a number of questions that require considerable time and effort on our part to respond and evidence a lack of support for our petition. While we might wish to carry on this effort to bring competition to the retail natural gas market in Massachusetts, it now appears that to do so would strain our resources. This simply is not a good use of our time, for the purposes of providing a public good.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please give us a call at (207) 772-6190.

Sincerely,

Richard Silkman
Member

cc. Carol M. Pieper, Hearing Officer, D.T.E.
Sent Electronically to the Service List